



LWF CENTER  
WITTENBERG  
THE LUTHERAN  
WORLD FEDERATION

LWF Center Wittenberg, Töpferstraße 9, 06886 Lutherstadt Wittenberg

Member Churches of the LWF

Wittenberg, August 17<sup>th</sup>, 2017

## Studying Luther in Wittenberg

### Invitation to the 17<sup>th</sup> International Seminar within the Luther Decade

*Dear Sisters and Brothers in the member churches of the Lutheran World Federation:*

*When I sent the newsletter number 6 to all previous participants of the seminars of the LWF in Wittenberg I got a lot of response. Everyone wrote how thankful they were to get the chance to be here and to experience the setting in this historical place and the opportunity to listen to each other, to learn a lot about Luther and Reformation and from each other, and to experience spiritual community.*

*Again, and again I learn from pastors they didn't hear anything about these seminars. Therefore, I encourage especially those member churches that haven't used this chance to send someone to such a seminar to identify a pastor. She or he will benefit for their ministry and will improve knowledge of Lutheran theology very much! Share this invitation with the respective persons in charge in your church for theological education or/and personnel. You might be interested to read the comments from the previous participants which you find under <http://www.lwb-zentrum-wittenberg.de/previous-seminars.html>*

*You are invited to send a pastor to the 17<sup>th</sup> seminar which will take place in Wittenberg from March 3<sup>th</sup> until March 17<sup>th</sup>, 2018 and will be led by Prof. Dr. Karl Wilhelm Niebuhr, Jena, Germany and a second one who's name is not known, since another one had to cancel his participation just recently. But we will find one, no doubt! The topic of the seminar will be: „Reading the Bible with Luther today”. All participants will receive some relevant texts in advance so that they can prepare for the seminar. The seminar takes place in the Colleg Wittenberg, a venue right in the center of Luther's town.*

*Kindly we ask to identify appropriate female or male pastors in your church. Since so far we had much less female pastors than male pastors we encourage you urgently to identify whenever possible female pastors from your church who meet the requirements:*

- *excellent knowledge of English, because the seminar is conducted in English*
- *pastors with some years of parish experience or students with special competence in Lutheran theology*
- *basic theological education*
- *endorsement of the leadership of the church*

*We will invite 20 participants from the regions within the LWF. This will ensure a fruitful, cross-cultural dialogue that will strengthen the communion of the LWF.*



*The itinerary of the seminar will be as follows:*

- 3.3. - arrival
- 4.3. - worship service in Wittenberg, guided tour to historic places  
6.30 p.m. start with the dinner and welcome
- 5. – 9.3. - seminar, part one
- 10.3. - day trip to Erfurt, Augustinian Monastery, and Eisenach, Wartburg Castle
- 11.3. - worship service in Wittenberg, visiting Torgau
- 12. – 16.3. - seminar, part two
- 17.3. - departure

*Participants in the seminar are required to be present for the entire seminar program. Personal trips or excursions after the seminar are possible at one's own expense and responsibility and need to be mentioned on the application form to enable the LWF Center to buy the health insurance and to issue the official letter of invitation for the appropriate time.*

*Please find attached the nomination/registration form, which should be returned to us as soon as possible, but not later than September 15<sup>st</sup>, 2017. Because of limited funds we have to ask the churches in North America, Western and Northern Europe to cover the costs or to subsidize their participants. In addition to travel expenses, participants need about 950,- Euro for accommodations, food, the day trip to the Wartburg and Torgau, entrance fees, materials, etc. We ask delegates from churches from other regions of the LWF to kindly consider what they can contribute (travel costs to get visa and to go to the airport, contribution to the stay in Wittenberg etc.). In a questionnaire we will send to the participants we will ask for your pledge. The more money is contributed, the more participants we can invite.*

*We need your cooperation and ask you to invite pastors from your church. So far, we have received many applications from the Global South but only a few from Central Western and Northern Europe and North America. Thus, we ask the Lutheran churches in these areas to encourage pastors to apply for the seminar. This invitation will come via different channels to you. All those who applied for a previous seminar but were not able to be accepted will receive the invitation directly.*

*All further communications will go directly to the participants, with copies sent to the respective churches. We kindly ask for your understanding if not all applications are accepted. This is due to limited financial means and limited capacities. But there will be seminars in the future, the next taking place in November 2018. Visit our website for detailed information!*

*We do hope that this study opportunity will be of interest to member churches and their pastors. We look forward to a fruitful exchange within the communion of the LWF.*

*On behalf of Professor Niebuhr, my colleague Joachim Zirkler and myself, I send you kindest regards,*



**Director LWF Center Wittenberg**